



## **2024 Women in CRE: Apexsa Patel, Holt Construction**

September 24, 2024 - Spotlights



Apexsa Patel  
Senior Project Manager  
Holt Construction

Why should this nominee be recognized in our Women in Commercial Real Estate Spotlight?

“Apexsa is leading several projects within our New Jersey Aviation department. She is a master at complex logistics and phased projects. Apexsa is a pillar of Holt’s core values for her team, a mentor to younger women in construction and an active member of Holt’s Women of Holt ERG.” - Kristen Ternullo, Director of Marketing at Holt Construction.

What recent project, transaction, or accomplishment are you most proud of?

I’m proud of my role in the North Pier Extension Project at EWR Terminal A (AMEX), a \$110 million, three-story expansion spanning over 45,000 gross s/f. This complex project, located partially airside and landside, required seamless coordination with PANYNJ, the terminal operator, ownership, and trade partners to minimize disruptions to airport operations and maintain high security standards. Despite numerous design changes and construction adjustments, our team’s meticulous planning and effective communication have kept the project on schedule and within budget. A major achievement was our early topping-out ceremony, which underscored our team’s ability to manage intricate challenges and meet stringent quality standards.

What are the most important factors young women should consider when choosing a firm to build their career with?

From my past and current experience with Holt Construction, several key factors stand out for young women choosing a firm. Throughout my career, I’ve gained invaluable experience through robust career development opportunities, including internships, mentorship programs, and rotational assignments. Extensive on-the-job training has also been instrumental in providing clear paths for advancement and professional growth. At Holt, I have benefited from a supportive and inclusive culture where diverse perspectives are valued and encouraged. The flexible work arrangements and family-friendly policies have greatly contributed to my work-life balance. Holt’s commitment to gender equality and diversity is evident through active initiatives and supportive practices.

Overall, Holt has provided a fulfilling and positive career experience.

Who inspires you most? What qualities do they possess that inspire you?

Since childhood, Roger Federer has been a personal and professional inspiration, especially as I grew up playing tennis. His qualities have deeply influenced my approach to work and life,

highlighting the importance of maintaining grace under pressure, continually improving, and dedicating oneself to their craft. Federer's calmness during intense matches parallels the composure required in construction projects when unexpected challenges arise. His relentless pursuit of excellence motivates me to refine my skills and stay passionate about my work. His humility and respect for opponents emphasize the value of teamwork and collaboration required on construction projects. Moreover, Federer's philanthropic efforts inspire me to contribute positively to the community, reflecting a commitment to making a lasting impact on the built environment.

Which professional organization(s) would you recommend to women just starting out in your industry:

For women starting out in the construction industry, I recommend the following professional organizations:

National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC): Provides networking opportunities, educational resources, and support for women in various construction roles.

Women's Builder Council (WBC): WBC has grown to be one of the leading voices for women business owners and women professionals in the building industry representing them on several important fronts: legislative advocacy, new business, and professional with a special focus on leadership.

Construction Manager Association of America: It provides unprecedented professional development, education and training, networking, business development, advocacy, and professional resources for professionals in construction industry.

Society of Women Engineers (SWE): While broader, SWE offers valuable resources and networking for women in engineering roles, including construction.

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